

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of routing a text message to ~~a second~~ an alternate destination associated with a called party where a first destination is unavailable comprising the steps of:

storing and maintaining a database of customer-provided information including an alternate destination and corresponding routing information and formatting information associated with each type of destination device, the routing information comprising a directory number;

receiving a call to the first destination associated with a called party initiated by a calling party, wherein the first destination is unavailable;

based on the unavailability of the first destination, requesting a voice message from the calling party;

receiving the voice message provided by the calling party;

~~converting the voice message into a text message based on determining an appropriate text format required by the second destination, the text format being determined by retrieving formatting information for a selected device from a database, the database including routing information for a plurality of communication devices and a selected device designation, the routing information including a list of directory numbers and formatting information for corresponding communication devices;~~

searching the database of customer-provided information;

retrieving routing information from the database for an alternate communication device associated with the alternate destination of the called party;

formatting the text message in an appropriate text format required by the alternate destination; and

forwarding the text message to the ~~second~~ alternate destination associated with the alternate destination communication device of the called party, ~~wherein the second destination comprises the selected device designated in the database.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of alternate destination communication devices are capable of receiving text messages.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein the plurality of alternate destination communication devices can be any one of a paging device, a mobile telephone, an electronic mail device, a facsimile machine, a modem, or a computer.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving additional information from the calling party.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the additional information comprises routing information of the second destination associated with the called party.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein the additional information comprises an identification of the calling party.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the requesting step is performed in response to a Busy/No Answer trigger.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving routing information of the ~~second~~ alternate destination from the called party.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of disconnecting the calling party after receiving the voice message provided by the calling party.
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving a personal identification number, wherein the personal identification number determines which one of the plurality of alternate destination communication devices comprises the ~~second~~ alternate destination.
12. (Currently Amended) A system for routing a text message to a ~~second~~ an alternate destination associated with a called party where a first destination is unavailable comprising:
a first switch for receiving a call to a first destination associated with a called party initiated by a calling party, wherein the first destination is unavailable;

a network element, coupled to the first switch, for requesting a voice message from the calling party based on the unavailability of the first destination and receiving the voice message provided by the calling party; and

a voice recognition means, coupled to the network element, for converting the voice message to a text message based on determining an appropriate text format required by the ~~second alternate~~ destination, ~~the text format being determined by retrieving formatting information for a selected device from a database, the database including routing information for a plurality of communication devices and a selected device designation, the routing information including a list of directory numbers and formatting information for corresponding communication devices;~~

a database for retaining and selecting customer-provided information including one or more alternate destinations and their corresponding routing information associated with each type of a plurality of alternate destination communication devices associated with a respective plurality of subscribers, the routing information for each communication device including:

a list of directory numbers for corresponding alternate destination communication devices;

formatting information for the corresponding alternate destination communication devices, the formatting information comprising an appropriate text format required for each communication device selectable as the alternate destination and retrieved by the voice recognition means; the system further comprising

a second switch, coupled to the network element, wherein the network element forwards the appropriately formatted text message to ~~a second~~ the alternate destination associated with the

called party via the second switch, ~~wherein the second destination comprises the selected device designated in the database.~~

13. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the network element comprises a service node.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the ~~second~~ alternate destination is a communication device capable of receiving text messages.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 14, wherein the communication device can be any one of a paging device, a mobile telephone, an electronic mail device, a facsimile machine, a modem, or a computer.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the network element further performs the function of receiving additional information from the calling party.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 16, wherein the additional information comprises an identification of the calling party.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 16, wherein the additional information comprises routing information of the ~~second~~ alternate destination associated with the called party.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein the network element receives routing information of the second alternate destination from the called party and stores the routing information in the database.
20. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein the network element disconnects the calling party after receiving the voice message provided by the calling party.
21. (Cancelled).